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Japan

Livestock and Products

Update: Japan's Beef Traceability Law 2004

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Report Highlights:

Full implementation of Japan's traceability law for domestic beef began on December 1, 2004.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Tokyo [JA1]
[JA]

On December 1, 2004, the second and final phase of Japan's traceability law for domestic beef was implemented. Implementation of the first phase on December 1, 2003, covered traceability from farms to the slaughterhouses. The second and final phase requires traceability from slaughterhouses to processors, distributors and retailers.

The law requiring traceability was passed by the Diet in June 2003, and was based around a pre-existing national cattle I.D. system requiring that all of Japan's 4.5 million cattle have an ear tag with a 10 digit number that is entered in a national database. Starting December 1, 2004, all domestically produced beef sold at retail shops and restaurants must be traceable to producers through the national database. According to press reports, approximately 40,000 retailers and 10,000 restaurants will display animal identification numbers to allow consumers to reference information about the domestic beef they buy and eat.

See JA3040 for more details on Japan's traceability system.